

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1 - 36 were noted as pending in the application, and all claims were rejected. By this amendment, claims 1 - 36 have been canceled, and new claims 37 - 58 have been added. Thus, claims 37 - 58 are pending in the application. The rejection of the Office Action is traversed below.

Double Patenting Rejection of Claims 1 - 36

On pages 2 - 3 of the Office Action, claims 1 - 36 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1 - 16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,311,231 to Bateman et al. and claims 1 - 19 of U.S. Patent No. 5,884,032 to Bateman et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed as follows.

All of the rejection claims, namely claims 1 - 36, have been canceled herein, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting moot. By canceling claims 1 - 36 herein, the Applicants are not admitting that claims 1 - 36 are obvious over claims 1 - 16 of the '032 patent or claims 1 - 19 of the '032 patent. Instead, the Applicants are presenting claims 37 - 58 for examination herein.


As all of the rejected claims have been canceled and new claims presented, the Applicants respectfully request the double patenting rejection be withdrawn and the present claims be considered by the Examiner.

Summary

Consideration of the claims and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.
If any fees are required in connection with this Amendment, please charge the same to our
Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 2, 2005

VA 708670.1